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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

After consultations among members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 3276th meeting, on 14 September 1993, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina":

The Security Council expresses its profound concern over recent reports that Bosnian Croats have been holding Bosnian Muslims in detention camps under deplorable conditions. The Council recalls the international revulsion and condemnation that accompanied revelations last year of the conditions under which Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats were being held in Bosnian Serb detention camps.

The Council reiterates the principle that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) must be given access to all detainees in Bosnia wherever they may be held. It notes that the ICRC has recently been given access to some detainees, but recalls with condemnation the obstacles which the Bosnian Croats have previously placed in the way of the ICRC's attempts to gain access to the camps in order to ascertain the conditions of the detained. It also notes the recent appeal addressed by the President of Croatia to the Bosnian Croats (S/26419).

The Council emphasizes the fact that inhumane treatment and abuses in detention centres violates international humanitarian law. Moreover, as the Council has previously recalled, persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches of the Geneva conventions are individually responsible in respect of such breaches.

The Council calls upon the Bosnian Croats to supply immediately to the ICRC complete information on all camps where Bosnian Muslim and other prisoners are being held, and to assure the ICRC and all other legitimately concerned international bodies free and unhindered access to the detained, wherever they may be held.

The Council believes that the Government of Croatia has a responsibility to use its influence with the Bosnian Croats to secure compliance with this statement and calls on the Government of Croatia to take immediate steps to that end.

The Council further reaffirms that all parties to the conflict are bound to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and reminds them of its willingness to consider appropriate actions if any of them should fail to abide scrupulously by their obligations.

The Council decides to remain seized of the matter.